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MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

14 December 1956

Present

Members: Royal Wald, State
Richard Bauer, Army
John Shearer, Navy
Maj. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

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Chairman

Consultants: David Wilson, State
Edward Carroll, USIA
Lt. Col. John T. Ransom, Army

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Subcomm EXPL FLP/CONF

1. The 81st meeting of the Exploitation Subcommittee convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 80th meeting were approved with the following addition and comment:

Army: Mr. Bauer said that "Dr." Johnson should have been used in place of "Mr." Johnson in the minutes.

2. Discontinuance of "Joint Press Reading Service" (JPRS)

The Chairman referred to the discontinuance of JPRS at the end of this year and raised the question of the need for a substitute service. He called attention to the existing "Current Digest of the Soviet Press" (CDSPP), and the Soviet publication, "Review of the Soviet Press," stating that negotiations were now under way for a contract between Department of State and CDSPP to provide a service to replace JPRS.

Mr. Wilson of State on being introduced to the Committee gave a brief history and description of the JPRS operation. The cost is \$135,000 per year of which the US pays \$30,000. CIA, in 1955, assumed \$19,000 of the US funding. \$65,000 is recovered annually through subscriptions for the service. JPRS publishes 60,000 words per week, which are received in Washington about two weeks after Soviet date of publication. One copy of JPRS is furnished to CDSPP, where it is of vital importance in preparing the "Current Digest of the Soviet Press".

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Mr. Wilson said that a survey by State of consumer interest in JPRS showed that CIA and USIA have definite interest. State was asked to negotiate a contract with CDSP to provide a similar service when JPRS is discontinued. These negotiations are now far advanced and CDSP is augmenting its staff to handle the additional work.

The contract would be for one year, subject to cancellation by either party on 90 days notice. It provides for payment to CDSP at the rate of two cents per word with CDSP obligated to provide 30,000 words per week. Total obligation is \$30,000 per year. Selection of material and extent of translation is at the discretion of CDSP except that State will give guidance for the intelligence community on desired emphasis and in some cases specific articles, of which translation is desired, provided such requests do not exceed 10,000 words in any one week. All material is to be available to CDSP for use as it sees fit in the "Current Digest."

CDSP will provide information daily on stencils without regard to the Soviet publication dates. Mr. Wilson estimated these can then be reproduced and disseminated within about 24 hours.

Mr. Wilson supported the contract on the grounds that (a) CDSP has a capable, experienced staff which can commence the service as soon as JPRS is discontinued, (b) the contract can be tried out and terminated if not found satisfactory, and (c) CDSP itself is worthy of government support in helping to develop academic scholarship on the Soviet Union.

25X1A [REDACTED] of CIA summarized the advantages of the contract as follows:

- a. It would provide additional material not presently available.
- b. It would provide information more rapidly than CDSP now does.
- c. It would support CDSP as a contributor to scholarship on the USSR.

USIA: Mr. Carroll opposed relying on the Sovinform Review since its quality and credibility might further deteriorate when the competition of JPRS is removed. He understood that there would be no military in the proposed service but it was needed by USIA and, he understood, by State and CIA.

Mr. Wilson cited criticism of the Sovinform Review resulting from a study by Mr. Gruliov, editor of CDSP: Its emphasis tends to follow current Soviet propaganda lines; there are some inaccuracies and some significant omissions, and there is limited source coverage. Another objection is the cost of \$790 per year for the first subscription copy, \$380 for the second and \$230 for each additional copy. This compares with the charge of \$150 per annum for the first and \$25 per

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annum for each additional copy of CDSP. Mr. Wilson stated that under the proposed contract two copies of the Soviet publication would be provided to CDSP.

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██████████ suggested FBIS as a source for the desired rapid receipt of information.

Mr. Wilson replied that some of the same objections applied to reliance on Soviet radio broadcasts as applied to the Soviet press review; they are too selective from the Soviet propaganda point of view. Under the proposed contract selection would be along the lines of normal CDSP operation and closer to the interests of US Government. CDSP can be instructed to avoid duplication with FBIS if desired.

The Chairman asked the Committee for comments on the need for the proposed contract and the value of JPRS to the member agencies. Replies were as follows:

State: Mr. Wald said that Mr. Wilson had largely covered State's position. Direct interest of the Department in such a service is nominal but indirect interest is great.

Army: Mr. Bauer said that Army has only marginal interest in the program. It is not geared to Army's needs and they rely mainly on FDD.

Air Force: Major Neumann commented that only a limited number of analysts use JPRS, and those only from general interest. He recommended against reliance on the Soviet press review however, and concluded that there seemed no choice but to support the proposed contract.

Navy: Mr. Shearer concurred with Major Neumann.

USIA: Mr. Carroll said that USIA supported the contract as previously stated.

CIA: The Chairman said that he had canvassed the known users of JPRS in the Agency and could not find an expressed need for such a service in CIA. CDSP appears to be useful as it is and FDD is available to fill the gaps.

Mr. Wilson stated that if there were no CIA support, there could be no contract with CDSP. He thought he had assurances of CIA support and asked for later conference with the Chairman.

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The Chairman stated that he was only reporting on the results of a survey from an exploitation point of view and would be delighted to meet with Mr. Wilson to pursue any other considerations.

3. Continuation of Review of Scientific and Technical Program

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Army: Mr. Bauer said Army will support most of [REDACTED] comments on the Scientific Information Report (SIR); however, there is universal acceptance of the selective abstracting policy as presently applied in SIR. He would like to see more coverage of Communist China and Eastern Europe. He agreed that emphasis is still on the USSR but research on the other two areas is being expanded considerably. He agreed that the Satellites have limited resources but they should be covered on a selective basis, which can be worked out on the working level. He stated that a number of non-bloc publications, for example Swiss publications, cover bloc science; Army would submit requirements in the matter.

Col. Ransom spoke in favor of traditional scientific subject arrangement for the SIR instead of the present format. He stated that the unclassified Soviet scientific publications were not only very important to the intelligence community but also to the Research and Development [RD] people. Access to this information by RD is blocked because of the language barrier and this is only overcome by translation such as the SIR and other FDD products. He continued that Army could handle the wider dissemination of SIR that RD needs would necessitate.

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Mr. Bauer returned to support [REDACTED] point to reorganize the SIR along the lines of formal scientific discipline and said he favors some sort of cross-referencing scheme.

Col. Ransom said that SIR organized along formal scientific subject lines may permit producing an unclassified report classifying only the intelligence oriented cross indexing.

The Chairman replied that he would have to look into the matter of lowering the classification.

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CIA: [REDACTED] said that the SIR could not be downgraded without changing the format. He suggested a small meeting between interested components to explore the ideas on changing the format of SIR and to consider full translation of bloc abstracts in the 13 abstract journal series published in Russian by the Academy of Sciences USSR.

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The Chairman agreed to a separate group getting together to work out details.

Navy: Mr. Shearer protested vigorously against any changes in format of the SIR, maintaining that the Subcommittee should primarily serve intelligence needs. While he recognizes the importance of RD he suggested considering separately a basic information program geared to serve RD.

Col. Ransom replied that he expected this point of view to come forward but that the current effort had proved to be a gold mine.

The Chairman agreed that intelligence needs must come first but believed that the current effort may also serve RD requirements.

Air Force: Maj. Neumann made it clear that SIR must be prepared to satisfy intelligence requirements first but agreed that there will be other benefits such as to RD. ATIC, he continued, considers rearranging SIR by scientific disciplines as unsatisfactory. He vigorously opposed any change in format. He concluded that SIR is very useful as a supplement to ATIC's operations, and ATIC wants to know the SIR plans in order to govern their own actions in the matter of scientific and technical exploitation.

The Chairman then summarized the points on which there was general agreement:

25X1A [REDACTED] had worked out a practical system of cross-indexing the SIR items.

There will be positive steps taken to label comment and make clear who is talking.

Highlights will be cross-referenced to the text.

Lead lines will conform to facts and will not mislead.

Abstracts in the research section will conform to traditional commercial abstract format.

Supplementary reports will be separately published after getting in touch with the interested consumers to determine feasibility of full translation. A brief item about these full translations will appear in SIR. There will be no general change in the present format of the SIR. We will try out the cross-indexing and keep in touch with the consumers.

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The Chairman polled the members on the proposal made last meeting on meeting once a month and reviewing programs once a year. Both proposals were supported unanimously by the Subcommittee members.

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CIA: [REDACTED] made the following three requests:

- a. Each item should stand alone.
- b. Perforate pages for SIR.
- c. Don't continue items from one page to another.

The Chairman explained that the publications people advised him against perforation because of the additional manpower costs but that he would satisfy the other two requests to the extent that it proved practical.

Army, Navy, and NSA concurred in this.

At this point, the Chairman handed out the first copy of a new FDD quarterly publication, "Political and Sociological Report on Rumania."

4. Due to the increased pressure on very limited manpower available for non-bloc reporting the following reports must be discontinued by FDD:

1. Index of "La Stampa" and "La Stampa Sera"
OO-W, Weekly, FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
2. Index of "Le Monde."
OO-W, Monthly, FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
3. Information on Trade Union Activities in Finland
OO-W, Bimonthly, FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
4. Information on Communist and Non-Communist Labor Unions
In France and Italy
OO-W, Bimonthly, FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

NOTE: Information on No. 4. will be reported in the weekly "World Press Summary of International Communist Developments" FDD Summary.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1640. Agenda for the next meeting on 18 January 1956 will be the review of the Western World program. The meeting will be held at 1400 hours in Room 1121 M Building.

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[REDACTED]
Chairman